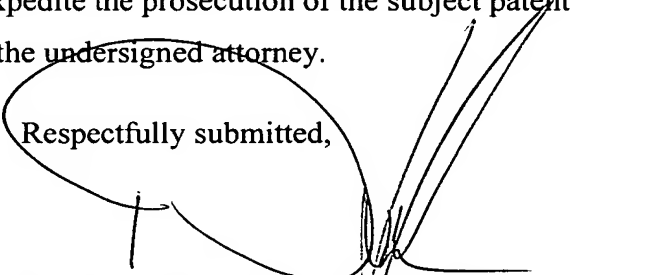


REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims have been amended to remove multiple claim dependencies and to place the claims in a format more consistent with U.S. patent practice. Claims 1-30 remain pending. No new matter has been added by way of these claim amendments. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims directed to any appropriate subject matter, whether previously claimed or unclaimed, in this and/or related patent applications in accordance with U.S. patent practice.

If there are any questions regarding this claim amendment, or if, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



M. Daniel Hefner, Reg. No. 41,826
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.
Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 4900
180 North Stetson Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6780
(312) 616-5600 (telephone)
(312) 616-5700 (facsimile)

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